

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 AID-05 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC, ETRD

SUBJ: INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS  
(TNCS)

1. SPECIAL INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE (SIC) HELD DESULTORY FIRST SESSION AM OF NOVEMBER 11. COMMITTEE GOT OFF TO A SLOW START WITH ONLY A FEW GENERAL INTERVENTIONS IN MORNING SESSION AND INITIAL AFTERNOON SESSION CANCELLED SINCE NO DELEGATIONS EVIDENCED A DESIRE TO SPEAK. SEVERAL DELEGATES ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SCHEDULING OF SIC MEETINGS OPPOSITE THOSE OF UNGA SECOND COMMITTEE TO WHICH THEY ATTACH OF EQUAL OR GREATER IMPORTANCE.

2. AT MORNING SESSION, AFTER ADOPTION OF AGENDA (USUN 4777) INTRODUCTORY REMARKS WERE MADE BY UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL DE SEYNES. IN A RATHER POLEMIC TONE, DE SEYNES POSITED EXISTENCE OF A SERIOUS CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC POWER OF TNCS AND THE SOVEREIGN POWER OF STATES. DE SEYNES OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO PUSH AHEAD WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF UN MACHINERY ON TNCS AND OF SETTING OUT PROGRAM OF WORK ON SUBJECT. THIS MAY IN PART REFLECT REPORTED INTEREST OF DE SEYNES IN HEADING ANY CENTER WHICH MAY BE ESTABLISHED.

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DE SEYNES ALSO TOOK VIEW THAT COMMISSION SHOULD BE

COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES  
IN ORDER TO PERMIT DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF INTEREST  
GROUPS (BUSINESS, LABOR, CONSUMERS, ACADEMIA) INVOLVED  
WITH AND/OR KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SUBJECT.

3. SOVIET DEL (MAKAYEV) AMDE EXPECTED ATTACK AGAINST  
"TRANSNATIONAL MONOPOLIES OF THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL  
COMPLEX.." NOTING THAT ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IN CHILE HAD  
ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR ECOSOC ACTIVITY ON TNCS, HE ALLEGED  
THAT THOSE SAME CORPORATIONS AND "FORCES BEHIND THEM"  
HAD INTERVENED TO OVERTHROW THAT REGIME. HE DISMISSED  
THE "SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS" OF TNCS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES  
AS EFFORTS AT "INDOCTRINATION". SOVIET DEL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT  
FAVORED ADOPTION BY ECOSOC OF RESOLUTION EMBODYING  
RECOMMENDATIONS IN CHAPTER II OF THE EMINENT PERSONS REPORT  
AND SAID THIS WOULD BE IN ACCORD WITH THE PROGRAM OF  
ACTION OF THE UNGA SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION. SOVIETS  
ALSO FAVORED ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT UN  
MACHINERY ON TNCS PROVIDED FUNDING FOR SAME RESULTED  
FROM REDISTRIBUTING FUNDS IN EXISTING  
BUDGET.

4. BRAZILIAN DEL INDICATED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARIAT'S  
SUMMARY OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON EMINENT PERSONS REPORT.  
HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THAT MORE ATTENTION NEEDED TO  
BE GIVEN TO ASSISTING NATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND NOT ONLY  
TO REGULATION OF TNCS. BRAZIL FAVORED SETTING UP PERMANENT  
MACHINERY ON TNCS BUT FELT THAT IT WAS PREMATURE FOR  
SIC TO DEVELOP A DETAILED WORK PROGRAM. HE ALSO FELT A  
BINDING AGREEMENT ON MNCS WAS NOT FEASIBLE AND THAT A  
CODE OF CONDUCT, WHILE USEFUL SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE WORK  
GOING ON ELSEWHERE, E.G., UNCTAD. BRAZILIAN EXPRESSED  
STRONG VIEW THAT ANY COMMISSION SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF  
GOVERNMENTAL REPS RATHER THAN PERSONS SERVING IN AN INDIVIDUAL  
CAPACITY.

5. YUGOSLAV DEL, IN FAIRLY MODERATE STATEMENT, ALSO  
SUPPORTED COMMISSION COMPOSED OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES,  
LIKE SOVIET DEL, YUGOSLAV STATED THAT UN PROGRAM OF WORK  
ON MNCS SHOULD REFLECT RELEVANT PARTS PROGRAM OF ACTION  
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ADOPTED AT UNGA SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION. UNDERSTAND YUGOSLAVS  
HAVE DRAFT RES BUT NOTHING HAS SURFACED YET.

6. FINAL SUBSTANTIVE INTERVENTION WAS BY CANADIAN DEL  
WHO REINTRODUCED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL (L.554) WHICH  
HAD BEEN INTRODUCED AT JULY SESSION OF ECOSOC IN GENEVA.

7. COMMENT: US DEL INTENDS TO FOLLOW LOW-KEY APPROACH AND NOT

TAKE LEAD IN DEBATE OR IN PROPOSING RESOLUTIONS, AT THIS  
TIME. THIS STRATEGY WILL ALLOW US TO EXPLOIT CONSENSUS WHICH  
MAY DEVELOP FOR LIMITING WORK AT THIS SESSION TO  
CREATING COMMISSION AND INFORMATION RESEARCH CENTER  
WITH NARROW TERMS OF REFERENCE.

WE UNDERSTAND DEPT IS CONSIDERING POSSIBLE CANDIDATES  
FOR CENTER EXDIR AS ALTERNATIVES FOR THOSE ALREADY  
MENTIONED. END COMMENT.  
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